

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17-29, and 31-52 are now pending in the application. Claims 16 and 30 have previously been cancelled. Claims 1-13 are allowed. Claims 14, 15, and 29 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. No new subject matter has been added by these amendments. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 14, 15, 17-29 and 31-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that it is indefinite as to whether the hydride which is reacted with the nitride is required to have two or more distinct cations other than hydrogen. The Examiner further indicates that the claims recite that the hydride may have just one cation other than hydrogen and also recite that the formed hydrogen storage composition may have just one cation other than hydrogen, while also reciting that the hydride has the formula as recited in the claims, which would require two cationic species distinct from each other. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 14, 15, 17-29 and 31-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that the specification as written does not enable one of skill in the art to form a hydrogen storage composition containing only one cation other than hydrogen

by reacting a hydride containing two distinct cationic species, since the formed hydrogen storage composition would contain two or more distinct cationic species other than hydrogen. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 14 and 29 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Specifically, the claimed hydride is represented by the formula $MI^a(MIIC_{b,a})$, where the cationic species other than hydrogen are selected from MI or MII. Furthermore, with regard to the hydrogen storage composition, the claims have been amended to recite that at least one cation is selected from one or more cations other than hydrogen from the nitride and at least one cation is selected from MI and MII derived from the hydride. Dependent Claim 15 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis to independent Claim 14. In this regard, Applicants believe that the amendments to independent Claims 14 and 29 obviate the Examiner's rejection with regard to clarity of the cations in the hydride composition.

Additionally, the amended claims are definite because of the recitation of the hydrogen storage composition including both a cation selected from the nitride, as well as a cation selected from MI and MII of the hydride. Further, the claimed invention is fully enabled, as the specification provides ample guidance to one of skill in the art as to how to make and use the claimed invention. See by way of example, Paragraphs 29 and 30 of Applicants' specification, including Reactions 1-7 set forth therein. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 14 and 29 and dependent Claims 15, 17, 28, and 31-52 are presently in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter contained in Claims 1-13. In light of the arguments and amendments presented herein, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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